

THE EIGHTH DAY.

28th February 1914.

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Saturday, the 28th February 1914.

VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

- 135 The increasing poverty of the people of Travancore and the necessity for taking immediate steps towards the amelioration of their condition.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi (Member, Kalkulam taluk) dwelt at considerable length on the increasing poverty of the people of Travancore.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

136. The necessity for establishing Local Boards.

Mr. K. Raman Tampi (Member, Vilavancode taluk) said that, at present, the wants of the people were represented by means of petitions, but the officers concerned took no notice of them in many cases, and, even if they paid any attention to them, it took years for their disposal. The grievances of the public would be many and varied and the redress obtained by petitions would not be much. If Taluk Boards, similar to what obtained in the Madras Presidency, were established, the grievances of the public could be readily redressed. The Member, therefore, advocated the establishment of a Board for each taluk, consisting of not less than five members, selected from among the taluk voters for the Assembly, with the Tahsildar as the *ex-officio* President. The term of office of the members should not be less than two years. They should represent the wants of the taluk affecting not less than 100 persons and propose remedial measures for them. The Tahsildar, as the *ex-officio* President of the Board, should submit a report on the representations to the Dewan Peishkar, who should address the Government in the matter. It should also be ruled that not more than two subjects should be brought up by the Board at a time and not less than two meetings should be held in a month. The subjects, with the orders of the Government thereon, should be published in the Gazette once every year. The institution would furnish a safe and sure ground for the Government in their administration. A healthy public opinion would also be gradually created. The Member said that, if the Government had any doubt as to the feasibility of the scheme, it might be tried, as an experimental measure, in a few selected taluks, in the same way as the Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. Ramavarmar Kothavarmar Koviladhikarikal (Member, Thiruvalla taluk) said that, apart from the several measures of reform for which the present administration would ever be remembered, one marked feature of it was the definite policy pursued in teaching the people the art of self-government. The creation of the several T. I. C's. in the interior parts of the State, with a non-official majority in them, the privilege conferred on the people to elect the non-official members in some of the Committees, the delegation of a similar power to the Assembly Members in the matter of electing the non-official members of the Legislative Council, and the action taken towards the formation of Village Panchayats, were all steps towards the attainment of the goal of constitutional Government. The formation of Local Boards he was going to ask for was very closely allied to the measures already adopted and was but a more advanced step towards local self-government. The subject of establishing Local Boards had been brought up before the Assembly on previous occasions and the reply vouchsafed by the Government in the Seventh Session was very favourable. The Government said that they recognised that local self-government might